

I am against installing a flag into digital transmissions. I beleive that the entertainment industry has a great tendency to abuse rights given to them by lawmakers. And what about this flag? Do they have some kind of a model to show how it will be used or are they seeking permission now and will come up with details after the FCC makes it's rulings?

And what about the ability to record shows and omit the commercials? I see this new technology as a way to force citizens to refrain from editing commercials and also a way to target people with forms of advertising if they are a certain age or watch certain shows. I think most americans are concerned about the ability of advertisers keeping too close tabs on them. I beleive this technology would lead to that end.

I also believe that the broadcast industry wishes to prevent citizens from taping shows and would love the oppotunity to force the public to purchase shows that have already been broadcast. Just look at the amount of profits being made on DVD sales of previously broadcast television series.

In short the broadcasters have a powerful lobby and many high-paid lawyers watching out for their interests while we the public have only the FCC in our corner. I think the american public is not a bunch of thieves. There is more to this going on here than protecting media.

I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted. However, if theoretical prevention comes at the cost of prohibiting me from making legal, personal use of my content, then the FCC should be working to protect all consumers rather than enable those who would restrict consumer rights. In the case of the broadcast flag, it seems that it will have little effect on piracy. With file-sharing networks, a TV program has only to be cracked once, and it will propagate rapidly across the Internet. So, while I may be required to purchase consumer electronic devices that cost more and allow me to do less, piracy will not be diminished.